

Message Text

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12
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3420

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STADIS//////////

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, FR, ETRD
SUBJ: POULTRY/COGNAC ISSUES

REF: PARIS 21935, PARIS 20070, PARIS 20087,
PARIS 21480

1. BASED ON TELEPHONE CONVERSATIONS WITH VARIOUS PARTS OF THE DEPT, WE BELIEVE THAT SOME CONFUSION PERSISTS ABOUT WHAT IS EXPECTED ON BOTH SIDES OF THE COGNAC ISSUE. THE DEPT SEEMS TO BE EXPECTING A NEW OFFER FROM THE GOF WHILE THE FRENCH ARE AWAITING A RESPONSE TO THE DEMOREL-GREENWALD CONVERSATION.
 2. THE FRENCH WANT TO KNOW WHETHER A CHANGE IN THE SANITARY REGULATION WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET OUR REQUIREMENTS SO THAT THE PRICE BREAK WOULD BE LEFT UNCHANGED. IF THIS IS NOT SUFFICIENT WE SHOULD TELL THE FRENCH NOW BEFORE PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER OF OUR INTENTION TO LOWER THE PRICE BREAK. OTHERWISE THE FRENCH CAN SAY THAT THEY HAD A PROPOSAL ON THE TABLE AND RECEIVED A RUDE AND DAMAGING RESPONSE. IF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER IS STILL SCHEDULED FOR JULY 31 THEN WE NEED TO TELL THE FRENCH TODAY OR NO LATER THAN TOMORROW THAT THEIR PROPOSAL WAS NOT SUFFICIENT. WE BELIEVE THAT IF WE TELL THEM CLEARLY
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THAT A CHANGE IN THE SANITARY REGULATION IS NOT ENOUGH

FOR US THEY MAY ACCEPT THIS, BUT IT SEEMS MORE LIKELY
THEY WILL SAY THEY WILL RE-EXAMINE THE SITUATION TO BUY
SOME TIME AND PERHAPS COME UP WITH A NEW OFFER.

3. IF WE THINK A CHANGE IN THE SANITARY REGULATION
WOULD BE SUFFICIENT WE SHOULD TELL THE FRENCH IMMEDIATE-
LY SO THAT THEY CAN START THE BUREAUCRATIC PROCESS OF
EFFECTING THE CHANGE. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW LONG THAT
WILL TAKE BUT WE WILL DO OUR BEST HERE TO PRESS FOR
PROMPT ACTION.

4. AS A RESULT OF A FRENCH INITIATIVE, THE EC HAS
ADJUSTED SUPPLEMENTARY LEVIES ON CERTAIN TURKEY PARTS,
WITH PRESUMED BENEFITS FOR U.S. TRADE. IN PARIS WE
HAVE NOT HEARD WHETHER U.S. EXPORTERS OF TURKEY PARTS
HAVE BEEN FAVORABLY IMPRESSED BY THIS GESTURE. GOF
THINKS IT AND THE EC HAVE BEEN RESPONSIVE TO U.S.
PRESSURE.
GAMMON

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NNN

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